

passed a couple of bills that are not too bad. They are almost identical to bills the Democratic Congress passed the last time; that is, the line-item veto, making Congress live by the laws that we pass.

What else have we done? Well, we have taken cops off the streets, attempted to return to the billion-dollar nonsense of star wars, allowed governments to break down your door without a search warrant yesterday, stopped tax credits for many American small businesses.

Giving this Congress credit for the actions of these first 50 days is like giving a driver's license to a teenager based on the number of car accidents he has had.

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON AT THE WHITE HOUSE DURING THE FIRST 50 DAYS?

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, quite rightly, the attention of America has been focused on this Chamber during the last 50 days, but it is only fair to ask what has been going on at the White House during the first 50 days of our Contract With America.

The President's embattled Commerce Secretary finds himself the subject of yet another Justice Department corruption probe. The President supposedly laid down the law with baseball owners and players—they did not listen to him either—in an unsuccessful bid to end the baseball strike.

Then the President sent a Surgeon General nominee to the Hill, misled Congress several times at to the number of abortions this nominee performed, and then attacked the pro-life movement for being concerned.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans have been busy with our Contract With America, the White House has been trying to legitimize a Cabinet Secretary's alleged corruption, attempted to play umpire in a millionaires' dispute, and failed to do a thorough background check on a Cabinet nominee, while all the while misrepresenting the nominee's record.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are worried about average, everyday American concerns, not worried about millionaires, corrupt politicians, or left-wing political movements.

That is why we will move in the next 50 days to enact our Contract With America.

January 1 of this year, reformulated gasoline has been required by the Clean Air Act in southeastern Wisconsin and other areas of this country. This reformulation contains either ethanol, MTBE, or ETBE.

Immediately, constituents started calling to complain of engine problems and reduced mileage, but more importantly they complained of adverse health effects.

I recently spoke with an allergist, Dr. Roger Hirsch, who confirmed that he noticed a pattern of symptoms for his patients starting in the second week of January. These symptoms included respiratory problems, light-headedness, low-grade headaches, and itchy and burning eyes.

When these symptoms reoccurred 3 to 4 weeks later, Dr. Hirsch began to suspect that there was a common cause. Going by the flood of calls received by my office, other congressional offices, and State and Federal hotlines, there certainly is.

To address this problem, my colleague, Mr. BARRETT, and I are introducing legislation today that would suspend the reformulated gas requirement until the complaints of adverse health effects are thoroughly examined. The onus would be on EPA to prove that this fuel is safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this bill. We are all for clean air, but we should not create health hazards achieving it.

SUPPORT THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

(Mr. TORKILDSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the subcommittee marks up its rescission package this evening, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's fate will hang in the balance. I rise in opposition to zeroing out funding for this important component of our public education system.

The debate is primarily philosophical, not fiscal. Government spends money on its priorities, and quality educational programming should remain a priority. Consider that public television's greatest reach is consistently among preschoolers. In 1993, 83 percent of America's preschoolers, our children and grandchildren, watched PBS. Almost half of all Massachusetts residents young and old watch a local PBS affiliate every week.

Cable is not a substitute, as many cannot afford cable. PBS reaches 99 percent of the country. Broadcast television is not the answer either, as the

FIRST 50 DAYS SAID TO BE MARKED BY POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY AND SYMBOLISM

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, we have now seen 50 days of the GOP majority in Congress in which symbolism reigns supreme. The people of the Nation, children, families students, and older Americans, are at risk. They are concerned and they are worried, and they should be. These actions promise to undercut the basic needs of working men and women.

During these first 50 days of the GOP they have retreated from the active, positive role of the Government, the cooperative role, and have replaced it with confrontation and threats of denial of benefits to those who need help in our society. The new majority has tried to make a virtue of their political actions. It will not work.

A deliberate Congress is necessary, and consideration in this Congress has been pushed aside by the new majority in the name of political expediency. The lockstep votes of the GOP have demonstrated a discipline—in fact, an almost ideological stand, not pragmatism—that prevails in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of these first 50 days cannot be totaled or added up today. They will have to be added up in the names of those who endure the human suffering that is going to be created by the abandonment of the American people by this new majority's actions.

THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE FIRST 50 DAYS OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, what has the Republican majority done in the past 50 days that the Democrats were not able to do in the past 40 years?

More votes, more hours, more hearings, more debate, more bipartisanship, more bills reported and real, positive change in the way business is done in Washington, DC.

Republicans are on a roll and no matter how hard the Democrats have tried to support business as usual, we will continue working hard to change Congress in the next 50 days. We will keep

that is smaller, more efficient and friendlier to the American people.

SUPPORT THE MINIMUM WAGE WITH THE MINIMUM TRUTH

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have gotten a tremendous number of calls from people concerned about what might happen to the minimum wage. One of the reasons why much of that concern is coming is because I represent a district right next to one of our leaders here, Mr. ARMEY, who has been talking about doing away with the minimum wage altogether and talks about Charlie, who lost his job because of an increase in the minimum wage back in 1977.

Well, they tell me that is not true, and I saw in the Washington Post yesterday that it was proven that was not a true story.

I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, that when our leaders get up to attempt to talk about why they want certain policies, they should just tell the truth. No one has lost a job because of an increase in the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of us to look very closely at what we pledge when we say, "with liberty and justice for all." Our working poor have to be considered. We cannot expect that all of us will know how to make decisions if we do not have at least a minimum truth in our support of the minimum wage.

THE SPEAKER TARGETED IN POLITICAL INVESTIGATION, SAYS THE MIAMI HERALD

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have an article here that appeared in the Miami Herald on February 21 that says they will find some dirt on GINGRICH, and one of our colleagues is quoted as saying that people have been assigned by House Democrats to "investigate Gingrich on a daily basis," and "we are going to stay on his back."

I really doubt if the American people sent our colleagues here to try and downgrade or to try and develop some sort of a list of how we can do in a particular Member of this House. I think the American people sent us here to do the people's business and to pass legislation and work together.

THE PEOPLE SEEK ANSWERS

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, 50 days into the Contract With America and there seem to be more questions than answers.

I want to know, how do we protect public safety and at the same time say we do not need more police on the streets, especially in our urban centers that have such problems?

How do we prepare the next generation to work in a more complicated, competitive world and say, "Oh, no, we don't need student loans anymore, and if we have them, they are going to be harder to pay for"?

How do we stand up for the average working person and at the same time say, "Let's have a tax cut" that is so big we could not pay for it unless we increased the deficit or at least broke our promise to our older Americans and decimated Medicare?

And, finally, how do we protect the Constitution of the United States and pass legislation that totally disregards the privacy of each and every one of our homes?

As we move into the second 50 days, these questions are going to have to be answered, and I am sure there will be other questions. My only hope is that as the American people see what is in this contract, they will not wish that they had negotiated an escape clause for their own protection.

FARM ISSUES DESERVE MORE ATTENTION

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, farmers deserve a break from the burdensome and bureaucratic regulations which dictate how agribusiness is run. Last night after much deliberation we passed a permanent tax break to help cover the cost of health insurance for farmers and other small businessmen. This is only one step toward relieving the farmer's burden—we must do much more.

Congress needs to re-implement the investment tax credit so farmers will have an incentive to expand their operations. We need to pass legislation that will ease the burden of private property takings. We need to pass a capital gains tax reduction which will allow farmers to invest in further improvements on their farm. The farmers should be able to leave their farms to

WHO HAS BENEFITED BY THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA?

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the last day of this Congress, I stated, At the end of each day, I believe it is important to be honest and to ask the question:

Who was helped—and who was hurt—by what we did?

We are now at the 50th day.

Who have we helped?

Mr. Speaker, on day one, I also stated, This Nation is strong because we have historically made a place for all who live here, including those who are weak—the young, the poor, the frail, the disabled.

Soon we will consider welfare reform legislation. The future of Federal nutrition programs hangs in the balance under that proposed bill.

We have another 50 days left on the 100-day promise to change America.

Who are we helping? Who are we hurting?

We have not helped the seniors. With the balanced budget amendment, Social Security and Medicare will likely be cut?

We have not helped workers. The unfunded mandates bill leaves workers protections at risk.

We have not helped our youth. The crime bill would jail them rather than deter them.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMOSKEAG VETERANS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today is George Washington's birthday and that is certainly an important event, but it is also the annual meeting of the Amoskeag Veterans.

The Amoskeag Veterans is perhaps New Hampshire's oldest standing militia, maybe one of the oldest in the country. The Amoskeag Veterans meet twice a year, on George Washington's birthday and on Bunker Hill Day. They are indeed a regiment of 72 American citizens who are battle-ready.

As we discuss the defense supplemental today, I hope the people of this country and my colleagues here in Congress will be advised that this group has been around for over 200 years. It